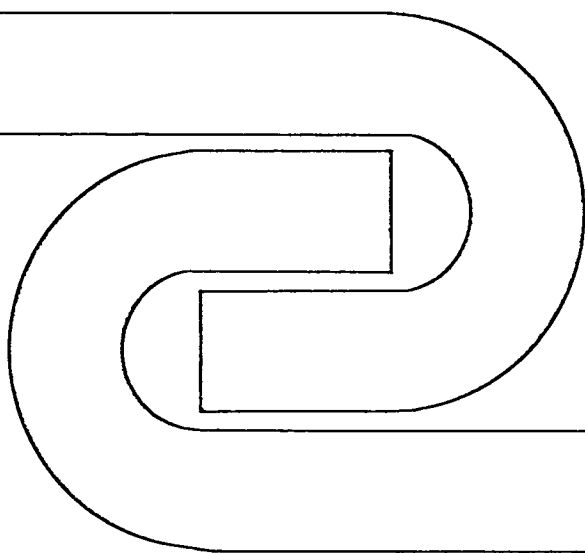


ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

BULLETIN



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I

188th PLENARY SESSION

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its 188th Plenary Session at its headquarters in Brussels on 26 and 27 May 1981. The Committee's Chairman, Mr Tomàs Roseingrave, presided.

The Session was attended by the Netherlands' Minister for Development Cooperation, Mr de Koning, and the State Secretary in the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr van der Mei, in their capacity as President-in-office of the Council.

RESUMÉ OF THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH

In his introductory statement, Mr Roseingrave emphasized that the period of crisis and economic recession which the Community and its Member States are currently living through carries with it a series of grave social and human problems in large sectors of society and that it is therefore at the same time natural and absolutely necessary to unite efforts at all levels of society and concentrate energy and attention on solving the problems of unemployment, structural change, falling investment and so on.

Mr Roseingrave went on to comment as follows: "However, a very real danger exists also: that our domestic problems may monopolize the totality of our economic and moral resources and prevent us from looking beyond our own frontiers to those of our fellow human beings in the developing world who have been much harder hit, not only by the current crisis but by a series of differing crises, catastrophes and damaging economic, social and political developments.

The first signs of such isolationist and narrow trends are already beginning to appear. Manoeuvres to cut spending on development aid budgets, for example, pressure to re-establish customs barriers,

reluctance to pay a fair price for raw materials are just a few of such apparent indications.

I consider this development detrimental to our common future and the attitude and thinking behind it to be very short-sighted and unwise — for moral, economic and political reasons.

I think it is the obligation of all people of good will, whatever their occupation and political affiliation may be, to fight these tendencies and convince our governments not to let up on development aid and cooperation and send our bills to people who are much less in a position to pay them than we are ourselves.

We must urge all developed countries to reach the 0.7 % development aid mark set by the United Nations as soon as possible. Some of the smaller Member States have shown us all the good example by even exceeding this mark and I hope the other industrialized countries will follow it.

At Community level, the Lomé Conventions represent a similar determination to maintain results achieved in cooperation with a large fraction of developing countries, the ACP States, and to improve and intensify this cooperation.

The Lomé Convention has been criticized; no doubt it has its imperfections and there is scope for improving and strengthening it. But it is the spearhead of a new style of contractual, comprehensive and flexible cooperation between equal partners. With the Lomé Convention development cooperation has come of age.

This attitude is behind the continued and unswerving attention which the Economic and Social Committee has paid to the Community's development cooperation over the years. We firmly believe that development cooperation will have no tangible or durable results without the active and institutionalized participation of farmers, workers, employers and consumers — not only in the developing countries but also in our own communities — in short, the ordinary people who in the last instance will bear the consequences of success or failure in development cooperation".

From right to left: Mr van der Mei, State Secretary, Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr de Koning, Netherlands' Minister for Development Cooperation, Mr Roseingrave, Chairman of the Committee, Mr Louet, Secretary General and Mr de Précigout, Chairman of the section for External Relations.



ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

1. LOMÉ II (Own-initiative Opinion)

Implementation of the Second Lomé Convention

Statement by Mr de Koning

The European Community is the Third World's most important trading partner, and the Member States together provide approximately 50% of all the financial resources received by developing countries. Thus, the EEC plays a crucial role in North-South relations.

In addition, the EEC is an instrument for coordinating Member States' individual policies. This applies, of course, to aid policy, but more than anything else it applies to the policies designed to improve the position of developing countries in the world economic order.

So far domestic policies have not on the whole been related to the Third World's development. The main theme of the memo on EEC policy and development cooperation is that the policies' lack of consistency in this respect must be remedied.

To illustrate this point I would like to mention some of this memo's proposals:

- Food problems in the Third World must be borne in mind when the reform of the CAP is discussed. Exports of farm products which are harmful to developing countries must be reduced and the scope for imports from these countries must be increased.
- A new Multifibres Arrangement must offer more scope for the industrialization of the least-developed countries.
- A more globally oriented development policy must ensure that the advantages offered are concentrated more on the poorest developing countries and populations.
- The countries of the Community should commit themselves to reach by a specific deadline the 0.7% development aid target agreed on long ago.
- Efforts must be made under a Community industrial policy to improve the international division of labour and provide satisfactory openings for industry in the Third World.
- Trade restrictions must be temporary. In order to achieve this, import barriers must be coupled with effective restructuring measures. A vigorous social and regional policy must enable the burdens of restructuring to be fairly apportioned.

These suggestions indicate roughly how a fully-fledged Community development policy could be shaped. Of course, such a policy will not be able to get off the ground unless it receives adequate political support. Naturally, there is a task for the socio-economic interest groups here. Your Committee can, in the exercise of its advisory function, consider the development cooperation aspect of Community policy and point to the external implications of domestic policy.

Statement by Mr van der Mei

Mr van der Mei referred to the importance and the unique character of the Lomé Convention, which could serve as an example for other countries. The EEC and ACP partners were treated on an equal footing and these relations should be strengthened further. The Community had a certain responsibility to bear in this respect. Mr van der Mei pointed out, however, that present financial resources were inadequate. At the same time, countries which were not parties to the Lomé Convention should not be overlooked.

He then turned to the Committee's Opinion.

He agreed that as much information as possible had to be provided about the Lomé Convention. There had been a positive trend in ACP-EEC trade relations. Recent statistics showed, for example, that Community imports from ACP countries had more than doubled in the last five years. The promotion of trade occupied a more important place in Lomé II than in Lomé I.

Referring to the Committee Opinion's comments on non-tariff barriers, Mr van der Mei pointed out that these played hardly any role in practice, in view of the almost completely free access for ACP products to the Community market.

The Council agreed with the Committee that the STABEX scheme had operated satisfactorily under Lomé I. The scheme was accordingly being expanded under Lomé II.

In Mr van der Mei's opinion, the question of ILO standards would probably be raised again during the Lomé III negotiations.

He stated that the Council fully agreed with the Committee that vocational training was a very important aspect of technical assistance.

He concluded by informing the Committee that the Council recognized the usefulness of the annual meetings between representatives of socio-economic interest groups from the Community and ACP countries. The following week's talks in Geneva would be followed by the Council with great interest.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

In this Opinion, which was adopted unanimously with no dissenting votes and three abstentions, the Economic and Social Committee considered what should be done to ensure that the Second Lomé Convention was applied as effectively as possible.

After examining the new convention chapter by chapter, the ESC made a number of suggestions, laying particular stress on the chapter on agricultural co-operation, a subject which was not to be found in the first convention.

First of all, Lomé I had not lived up to expectations. Although Lomé II was an improvement, it could not solve all the problems of the ACP countries, especially those whose economic and social situation was getting worse and worse. Unfortunately, both conventions made practically no provision for involving economic and social interest groups in the work of implementation.

The development co-operation contract between the Community and sixty Third World countries contained in the convention could make a real contribution to the North-South dialogue and the quest for a new international economic and social order.

The provision of the new convention should not be allowed to impede co-operation between the EEC and other Third World countries. The Member States therefore had to reach the official development aid target of 0.7% of GNP as soon as possible and try to improve co-ordination of their own development and co-operation policies.

To be truly effective, the Community's development aid policy had to be properly co-ordinated with all its other policies and activities in the fields of economic, social and agricultural affairs. But the ACP states too had to make the best possible use of any funds provided by the EEC. A major information drive therefore had to be mounted in both the EEC and ACP states so as to ensure that the new convention had its full intended impact and did not just become a means of providing financial assistance.

As far as agricultural co-operation was concerned, the implementation of the agricultural chapter of the convention should give a new lease of life to ACP/EEC co-operation, for although 40% of the money from the European Development Fund had been spent on rural development, food shortages in most of the ACP countries had grown steadily worse.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 675/81.

Priority Goals

The ESC felt that priority should be given to the following:

- the diversification of agricultural output to achieve self-sufficiency in food production;
- local processing of farm produce by expanding agro-food industries;
- a rational exploitation of forestry resources coupled with a modernisation of fishery methods and equipment;
- proper management of water resources so as to help overcome the all-important problem of drought and its consequences; and
- the construction of the technical and social infrastructure and facilities essential for rural development.

These areas of action should be allocated a larger share of EDF resources and given the assistance required to improve the standards and effectiveness of projects undertaken.

Such goals could only be achieved if they spanned a long period and formed an integral part of a consistent national agricultural policy. Farmers would not be encouraged to increase their production, whether of food or export crops, unless they obtained good prices.

As the agricultural chapter also provided for food aid, the ESC recommended:

- using the machinery of the CAP to help ensure stable food supplies for the ACP states, as advocated in the EEC declaration appended to the convention; and
- co-ordinating food aid more satisfactorily with rural development projects.

Ways and Means

The ESC considered that the most suitable ways of achieving these priority goals were:

- to provide basic and advanced vocational training for farmers and their families;
- to make appropriate arrangements for supplying technical know-how and socio-economic assistance;
- to promote the use of appropriate technology in agriculture;
- to encourage and co-ordinate rural infrastructure schemes;
- to introduce gradually a balanced, efficient and contractual economic system; and

- to foster closer co-operation between producers and the different kinds of associations and groupings which existed.

Incentives to Form Associations

Finally, the convention's objectives in the agricultural and rural sector would be easier to achieve if farmers were encouraged to form autonomous and representative associations to ensure their own development.

The ESC then examined the following chapters of the convention:

- TRADE CO-OPERATION
- STABEX
- MINEX
- INVESTMENTS
- INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION, particularly:
 - the Centre for Industrial Development (CID),
 - energy co-operation,
 - smaller businesses,
 - industrial training,
 - supplementary financing;
- TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL CO-OPERATION
- GENERAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE LEAST-DEVELOPED, LANDLOCKED OR ISLAND ACP STATES
- SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION

The ESC here advocated the inclusion of a "social agreement" in the convention, including an undertaking by both sides to ratify and apply a number of ILO conventions.

- INVOLVEMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTEREST GROUPS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LOMÉ II.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for External Relations under the chairmanship of Mr de Précigout (France - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Clavel (France - Various Interests).

2. PROPRIETARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directives 65/65/EEC, 75/318/EEC and 75/319/EEC on the approximation of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to proprietary medicinal products

Gist of the draft Directive

The purpose of this proposal is to update the Directives adopted in 1965 and 1975 and, above all, to introduce the principle of the recognition of the marketing authorizations issued by national authorities on the basis of harmonized provisions. This also entails the amendment of the procedure involving the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion with 61 votes in favour, 45 against and 10 abstentions. It criticized the scant progress made towards the free movement of proprietary medicinal products since the relevant Directive's adoption in 1975. The Commission's decision to merely provide for the mutual recognition of national marketing authorizations in its new proposals was also noted.

This decision had had to be taken, because the establishment of an EEC body for the issuing of Community authorizations was plagued at the moment by political, legal, financial and practical difficulties.

This being so, the Committee — while endorsing the proposal — urged the Commission to work out ways of making the authorization procedure more effective by ensuring:

- a better and quicker flow of information between the authorizing bodies, if possible through the use of computer systems, and
- a more effective alignment and monitoring of methods of analysis.

The Opinion also emphasized:

- the unsatisfactory solution prevailing four years after the entry into force of the most recent Directives on the approximation of national provisions, and
- the inadequacy, given the objective being pursued, of measures designed simply to improve current procedures, as such measures would not fundamentally alter the problems.

The Committee also agreed with the proposed amendment and supplementing of existing Directives, in order to update them and bring them into line with the solution adopted to ensure medicinal products' freedom of movement.

Finally, the Commission was called on to put forward concrete solutions as soon as possible with regard to the advertising and pricing of medicinal products.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 676/81.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr van Campen (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr De Bievre (Belgium - Employers).

3. SOCIAL ASPECTS - FISHERIES

Commission Communication to the Council on the Social Aspects in the Community Sea Fishing Sector

Gist of the Commission Communication

This Commission Communication outlines a medium-term social action programme for sea fishing in the Communities.

This programme, seen as the beginnings of a social policy in the fisheries sector, supplements the structural and market policies. It is centred on:

Vocational training

In a draft Resolution appended to the Communication, the Commission sets out guidelines for such matters as (a) introduction of compulsory vocational qualifications for fishermen, (b) general introduction of a minimum period of basic vocational training in fishing, (c) extension of educational and vocational guidance schemes to cover the sea fisheries training sector, and (d) re-organization of vocational training in line with the new fishery requirements.

To facilitate implementation of these guidelines, the Commission has framed a back-up programme which, among other things, sets out the occupational skills required to obtain the certificates and qualifications needed for work as a sea fisherman and provides for the preparation of joint vocational training programmes and more widespread exchanges of information between the Member States.

The Commission proposes to discuss this back-up programme with a working party which will include representatives of the Member States and of the Joint Committee on Social Problems in Sea Fishing.

Employment

The proposed Regulation states that the guidance programmes will have to specify how they expect to improve the employment situation.

The Commission proposes to collect the relevant data by using an "*information sheet on employment in the fisheries sector*". With these data, to be collected by the Member States, it will be possible to keep abreast of labour market trends in the sector and assess the impact of Community policy.

The Commission is also proposing measures to match job applications and vacancies, create jobs in less favoured regions and help young sea fishermen find work.

Safety and health at work

The Commission calls, on Member States to make a greater effort to achieve a significant reduction in accidents at sea and at work, which are disturbingly frequent in the fisheries sector.

For this purpose the Commission proposes stepping up research and studies on the circumstances of such accidents and their consequences. Suitable measures can then be worked out on the basis of the information thus acquired on hazards and ways of avoiding them. As a preliminary step, instructions for dealing with a number of specific problems could be distributed in the form of handbooks on such subjects as (a) the ship's medicine chest, (b) medical consultation by radio, (c) life jackets for rescue work, and (d) physical fitness of sea fishermen.

The Member States should also ensure that crew members receive appropriate medical care in the event of sickness or injury on board fishing vessels. Vocational training courses in the fisheries sector should therefore include instruction in practical medicine suited to the different types of fishing activities. Standard procedures for medical consultation by radio should be established and all fishing vessels required to carry a medicine chest and a practical medical handbook on board.

Accident prevention

Assistance and rescue at sea should be made more effective. The Commission is to draw up a plan for coordinating facilities besides laying down procedures for cooperation between the relevant bodies in the Member States. In practice, this ongoing coordination could be entrusted to a specialized body.

Sustained efforts must be made to achieve coordination between the two sides of industry and authorities at all levels on matters concerning safety and prevention of accidents at work. To this end, the Member States should organize regional and local consultation between the two sides of industry and the authorities. The Commission will organize

suitable consultation on a regular basis between the representatives of the Member States and of the Joint Committee on Social Problems in Sea Fishing to reach agreement on practical proposals covering health, safety and prevention of occupational accidents in the Community's sea fishing sector.

Working conditions

For the time being it does not seem appropriate to take uniform action at Community level to amend labour law concerning sea fishermen. Such action is likely to be of no avail, as it is virtually impossible to take account of all the local constraints, varying circumstances or changes affecting certain types of fishing.

Further, the desired progress depends largely on consensus between the two sides of the fishing industry. Here measures should be taken in the Member States to further a joint approach and encourage those concerned to reach agreement on points such as (a) remuneration of sea fishermen, (b) hours of work, (c) holiday entitlement, (d) job security and (e) organization of work.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

Though it gives its general approval to the broad lines of the Commission Communication, the Committee makes several remarks with regard to:

- the absence of a coherent fisheries policy and the economic and social risks inherent therein;
- the inadequacy and vagueness of the financial aids;
- the very limited scope of the IMCO Torremolinos Convention on the Safety of Fishing Vessels;
- the delays in implementing the proposed guidelines.

The Committee also stresses that structural and social policies must go hand-in-hand in the fisheries sector and that without ignoring the wide variety of local conditions, it will be necessary to create an adequate and harmonized social framework within which the sector will be able to adapt to change in the environment. The need for medium- and long-term solutions in economic, social and other spheres must not be allowed to push aside short-term remedies either.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 668/81.

This Opinion, adopted unanimously, was based on material prepared by the Section for Social Questions under the chairmanship of Mr Houthuys (Belgium - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Murphy (Ireland - Workers).

4. MEASURING INSTRUMENTS

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 71/316/EEC on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Common Provisions for both Measuring Instruments and Methods of Metrological Control

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 76/764/EEC on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States on Clinical Mercury-in-Glass, Maximum-Reading Thermometers

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Tyre Pressure Gauges for Motor Vehicles

Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Instruments designed to determine the Content by Volume of Carbon Monoxide in the Exhaust Gases of Motor Vehicles with Spark Ignition

Gist of the Commission's Proposal

The purpose of Council Directive 71/316/EEC is to provide for free movement of measuring instruments within the Community through harmonizing the differing measurement inspection laws of the Member States and introducing for this purpose suitable procedures in connection with the controls guaranteeing observance of the technical requirements in the form of EEC pattern control and EEC initial verification. Since this framework Directive was first adopted, experience has underlined the need to amend a number of articles and such amendments constitute one part of the Commission's proposal. In addition, it is proposed that the procedure for adopting separate Directives should in future be governed by the fourth indent of Article 155 of the Treaty of Rome, instead of Article 100 as at present, so as to bring it into line with the more expeditious procedure used of adapting Directives to technical progress.

The three proposals for separate Directives, all of which are highly technical, relate to:

- the approximation of the laws of the Member States in two "new" areas (tyre pressure gauges for motor vehicles and instruments determining the carbon monoxide content in exhaust gases);
- a number of amendments to the existing Council Directive on clinical mercury-in-glass thermometers.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

In a unanimously adopted Opinion, the Committee approves the proposed Directives. On the proposal of wide use of the fourth indent of Article 155 of the Rome Treaty for amendments to framework Directive 71/316/EEC, it refers to its earlier Opinion on Construction Products in which the conferring of powers on the Commission in accordance with Article 155 was approved provided that the Committee was consulted beforehand.

It also feels that the procedure proposed in the Directive concerning instruments for determining the CO content of motor vehicle exhaust gases would significantly push up the cost of calibrating such instruments; a second rather less precise and stringent category of calibration should therefore be considered.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr van Campen (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Breitenstein (Denmark - Employers).

5. OPERATION OF TRACTORS

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the installation, location, operation and identification of controls, telltales and indicators on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors

Gist of the Commission Proposal

This proposal fits into the pattern of the type-approval procedure at Community level which was the subject of Council Directive 74/150/EEC of 4 March 1974. It lays down construction requirements so that the driver of a tractor can operate his tractor in safety

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 669/81.

and without excessive fatigue (controls) and can easily identify the controls, telltales and indicators. The symbols to be used are set out in an Annex. The rapid evolution of the market and the increasing pressure of competition to be expected in the light of growth in certain producer countries, such as Japan, has led many producers in the Community to attach particular importance to maintaining their competitive position. That is why the Commission regards this Directive as particularly important in harmonizing national legislation relating to agricultural tractors.

Lastly, it should be stressed that the purpose of such harmonization is not merely to remove trade barriers but to improve safety and alleviate the confusion caused by instructions being issued in several languages on the location and symbols to be used for controls.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion unanimously with one abstention. It endorses the proposal but wonders whether the definition of agricultural and forestry tractors is still valid, particularly as regards maximum design speeds. According to information received from the Commission, a 20 % increase in the maximum design speed would not involve changes in the specific Directives; the Committee therefore agrees with such an increase.

In view of the technical progress that has been made, especially as regards new control systems, the Committee recommends that adaptation to technical progress should be carried out quickly so that EEC producers are not at a competitive disadvantage on international markets.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr. van Campen (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr. Masprone (Italy - Employers).

6. RIGHT OF APPEAL IN CUSTOMS MATTERS

Proposal for a Council Directive on the harmonization of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action concerning the exercise of the right of appeal in respect of customs matters

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 673/81.

Gist of Commission's Proposal

Current provisions in the Member States concerning the right of natural and legal persons to appeal against customs authorities' decisions which affect their rights differ sharply. This is particularly so with regard to the time-limits within which the right must be exercised, the kind of authorities empowered to decide on appeals, the respective jurisdiction of administrative authorities and judicial institutions called upon to decide on appeals and the consequences of exercise of the right of appeal on implementation of the disputed decision.

To ensure that everyone benefits as equally as possible from correct application of Community customs rules, the Commission is proposing to lay down at Community level the conditions for lodging an appeal, as follows:

- there shall be an initial right of appeal to the customs authority itself and subsequently to an authority independent of the customs authority;
- this independent authority shall be empowered to refer matters to the Court of Justice of the European Communities, pursuant to Article 177 of the Treaty.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion approving the proposal by 68 votes in favour with 7 against and 4 abstentions. Although it is concerned solely with harmonizing the initial stage of the appeal procedure, the proposal's adoption will go some considerable way towards facilitating the solution of disputes between customs authorities and traders as the bulk of these disputes are dealt with at an administrative level.

The Committee proposes that the appellant should be informed that he might be worse off as a result of his appeal and should be given the chance to decide whether or not to proceed with the matter.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 677/81.

Mr van Campen (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Marvier (France - Various Interests).

7. RELEASE OF GOODS FOR FREE CIRCULATION

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 79/695/EEC on the harmonization of procedures for the release of goods for free circulation

Gist of the Commission Proposal

The aim of the present proposal is to amend the deadline for implementing Directive No. 79/695/EEC so that it no longer depends on the date on which the Council adopts a Regulation on the definition of the term "declarant". The proposed new definitive deadline is 1 April 1982.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

In a unanimous Opinion, the Committee approves the proposal. It does, however, regret that the defining of the term "declarant" has not yet been settled.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr van Campen (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Marvier (France - Various Interests).

8. TRANSPORT MARKETS MONITORING SCHEME

Amendment in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 149 of the EEC Treaty to the proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) concerning a system for observing the markets for the carriage of goods by rail, road and inland waterways between the Member States

Gist of the Commission's Proposals

After having obtained the views of the European Parliament and the Committee, the Council invited the Commission on 4 November 1976 to examine a number of subjects (market indicators, usefulness of data,

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 671/81.

data necessary, cost of the observation system). Then in 1978, before committing itself to a decision about the adoption of a permanent system of market observation, the Council asked to be informed about the results of a trial run of the system, to be carried out over a specific period.

In accordance with Article 149 (2) the Commission's proposal amends the original Draft Regulation in line with the experience gained and views expressed.

The Commission now proposes, however, replacing the Regulation by a Decision as this is more appropriate to the voluntary approach adopted.

The draft also provides for less complex instruments for achieving its objectives; these should be less expensive and the results available sooner.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

In an Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee considered the proposed system for observing the market to be feasible and useful.

On the other hand, it emphasizes that it is necessary to assess all the available statistics and the effectiveness of existing statistical instruments, before firm proposals are made for the creation of costly new instruments.

The Committee also declares its support for the harmonization of national statistics in order to improve their comparability.

Some reservations are expressed as regards the proposed system's capacity to function and provide the necessary data if adequate financial resources are not available. These will always be limited.

These reservations also apply to the methods used by the Commission, where data on international traffic (one part of the market), domestic traffic and traffic with non-member countries are not taken into account.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mrs Weber (Germany - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Rouzier (France - Workers).

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 672/81.

9. INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION/RELATIONS WITH 3RD COUNTRIES

Proposal for a Council Decision setting up an information and consultation procedure for relations and agreements with third countries in the field of transport by rail, road and inland waterway

Gist of the Draft decision

The draft Decision establishes a procedure for the exchange of information and consultations between Member States with regard to the conclusion of agreements with non-EC countries in the field of inland transport.

The aim of the proposed procedure is to:

- identify matters of common interest;
- examine the implications of the information provided for the common transport policy and its development;
- seek convergence of views on relations with third countries;
- facilitate, where necessary, co-ordination of the action taken by Member States with regard to the third countries concerned and to consider any expedient policy towards them.

It is proposed that Member States which intend to conclude or to amend an agreement with one or more Member States in the field concerned should inform the other Member States and the Commission of their intentions in good time, i.e. before the initialling of the agreement. Where necessary there should then be consultations with the other Member States. The consultations should take place no later than two months after the receipt of the information. A representative of the Commission should take the chair at the consultation.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its Opinion by a large majority with 3 votes against and one abstention. It approves the proposal subject to the submission of a draft text of any international agreement or a dossier containing all the relevant details if the interests of the common transport policy are at stake. This information should be submitted prior to the initialling of the agreement or, failing that, prior to the conclusion of negotiations.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 672/81.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mrs. Weber (Germany - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr. Schneider (Luxembourg - Workers).

10. COMMUNITY TRANSIT

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending for the third time Regulation (EEC) No. 227/77 on Community Transit

Gist of the proposed regulation .

The purpose of the Commission's proposal is to amend the specimen guarantee form appended to Council Regulation (EEC) No. 222/77 so as to introduce a three-month period for payment. Experience has shown that guarantors regard the current rules as an excessive imposition.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Economic and Social Committee approves the Commission's proposal unanimously.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr van Campen (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Marvier (France - Various Interests).

11. RESTRUCTURING OF VINEYARDS

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 458/80 on collective projects for the restructuring of vineyards.

Gist of the Commission Proposal

This proposal provides for the possibility, if the existing structural situation allows it, of new planting or replanting of a part rather than all of the wine-growing area covered by a project. It is also proposed that there should be a time limit for carrying out projects.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. CES 670/81.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Economic and Social Committee adopted this Opinion unanimously with one abstention. It unreservedly approves the aims of the proposal.

However, it would point out that on several points the Commission has not taken account of Greece's entry into the Community.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr Emo Capodilista (Italy - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Paggi (Italy - Employers).

(¹) Doc. CES 678/81.

II

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

ESC CHAIRMAN VISITS JAPAN

Mr Tomàs Roseingrave, Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, led a small delegation to visit Tokyo to meet representatives of the Government, of employers and trade union organisations. The visit, from 5 to 8 May, included a meeting with the Minister of Labour, Mr Fujio, the Parliamentary Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Aichi, the Secretary for Economic Planning, Mr Miyazaki and the Special Representative of Government for Trade Affairs, Mr Okita.

The Committee's delegation included the two Vice-Chairmen, Mr A. Laval and Mr N. Miller, the Committee's Secretary-General, Mr R. Louet and Mr C. Evain, Rapporteur for the Opinion on Relations of the European Community with Japan.

MEETING BETWEEN THE FRENCH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE ESC IN BRUSSELS

The Bureau of the French Economic and Social Council met a delegation from the ESC at the latter's headquarters in Brussels on 19 May. The purpose of the meeting, which follows a tradition established some years ago, was to discuss problems of common interest. The following topics were on the agenda:

- discussion on new trends in Community action in the 1980's;
- exchange of information on the visit to Japan by the Chairman of the FESC and by the Chairman of the ESC;
- the Committee's work on the state of the car industry.

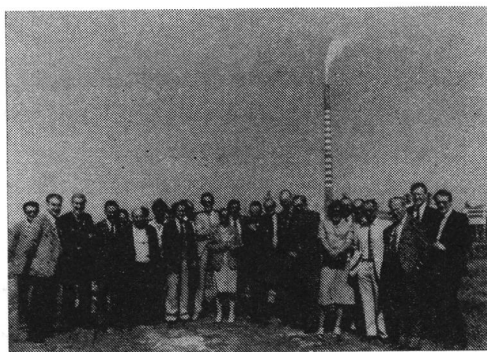
The French delegation was led by the President of the Economic and Social Council, Mr Gabriel Ventejol, and was made up of the following members: Mr Tessier, Vice-President, CFTC (French Christian Worker's Federation), Mr Decaillon, Bureau Secretary CFDT (French Confederation of Labour), Mr Delmon, Bureau Secretary, Chairman Charbonnages de France, Mr Denoue, Bureau Secretary Crafts and Trades, Mr Magniadas, CGT (General Confederation of Labour) and

Mr Lavondes, Secretary-General. The ESC delegation was led by its Chairman, Mr Tomàs Roseingrave, and consisted of Mr Miller and Mr Laval, Vice-Chairmen, Mr van Campen, Chairman of the Section for Industry, Mr de Précigout, Chairman of the Section for External Relations, Mr Vanni, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Prospects for 80's, Mr Evain, Rapporteur Section for External Relations, Mr De Bruyn, Rapporteur Sub-Committee on Prospects for the 80's, Mr Zinkin, Co-Rapporteur Sub-Committee on Prospects for the 80's, and Mr Louet, Secretary-General.

ESC DELEGATION VISITS SCARLINO IN ITALY

A delegation from the Economic and Social Committee went to Scarlino (Grosseto) on 19 and 20 May 1981. The delegation was made up of representatives of interest groups from the various Member States and visited the factories of SIBIT (Italian titanium dioxide company —Montedison Group) to gather on-the-spot information on the effectiveness and application of the new Commission proposals for monitoring the environments affected by wastes from this industry.

The Study Group was led by Mr Beretta (Italy). The Rapporteur was Mr Blasig (Germany).



The "Titanium Dioxide" Group at Scarlino

EXTRACT FROM ESC PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO EEC TEXTILE INDUSTRIES

Mr Roseingrave, President of the Economic and Social Committee, attended the Annual General Meeting of the Coordinating Committee for the Textile Industries in the EEC (COMITEXTIL) on 26 May in

Brussels. In the course of his speech to this assembly he mentioned some specific ESC Opinions having a bearing on the textiles and clothing sector and remarked that they largely coincided with the industry's own views. "They dealt", he continued, "with a supplementary Directive on textile raw-materials marking, a Commission proposal for a second Community research programme for the textile and clothing industry — which the ESC fully endorsed, and the extension of customs preferences... Recently, we came out against the draft Directive approximating the laws of the Member States on the indication of the origin of various textile and clothing products. The Committee is preparing a study on 'Structural Changes in the Textiles and Clothing Sector: Analysis of the Situation and Examination of Previous and Future Community Measures'. This, of course, takes a stand on the question, which is particularly important for you, of the extension of the multifibre arrangement to prevent a further loss of jobs in the much-shrunk textiles and clothing industry of the Community. It must be remembered that the Community market is still more open than that of other industrial countries, even though demand has reached a plateau, or is even declining. We have every reason to ensure — and this is our most important task — that jobs are created instead of being lost."

III

NEW CONSULTATIONS

Since the last plenary session, the Council has requested the Committee's opinion on the following points:

- *Proposal for a Council Directive on the Approximation of the Laws of the Member States relating to Claims Made in Labelling, Presentation and Advertising of Foodstuffs for Sale to the Ultimate Consumer (COM (81) 159 final)*
- *Proposal for a Council Directive on Containers of Liquids for Human Consumption (COM) (81) 187 final)*
- *Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a Programme of Research and Development in the Field of Science and Technology for Development (1982-1985) (COM (81) 212 final)*

IV

PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

JULY PLENARY SESSION

Referrals

- Economic situation
- Social situation in 1980
- Titanium dioxide
- Cellulose film
- Cadmium waste
- Earthmoving equipment noise
- Tourist assistance
- Right of establishment in the field of pharmacy
- Recognition of doctors' diplomas
- 2nd Summertime directive
- Development of combined transport
- Health problems of fresh poultrymeat

Own-initiative Opinions

- Problems of the handicapped
- Construction
- Automobile industry
- Food aid
- Japan
- Prospects for 80's

Study

- textiles/clothing
- Amendment of Article 55 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure

SEPTEMBER PLENARY SESSION

Referrals

- Protection of workers against asbestos
- Information and consultation of workers in multinationals
- Labelling and packaging of foodstuffs
- Community trade marks
- Cosmetics

- Biodegradability of anionic surfactants
- Inter-regional air transport
- Public service concept in transport
- Financial balance of railways

Own-initiative Opinions

- Coordination of employment policy instruments
- Appraisal and aims of energy policies for 1990

Study

- Agricultural aspects of negotiations with Spain

OCTOBER PLENARY SESSION

Referrals

- Medium-term economic policy
- Securities

Own-initiative Opinions

- Reflections on the Common Agricultural Policy

SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS

Referrals

- Packaging of beverages
- Memorandum on the future of regional policy
- Annual accounts of banks
- Transport priorities and timetable
- Scientific and technical R & D programme

Own-initiative Opinions

- Role of SMEs
- Annual ERDF report

Study

- Integrated Operations (regional policy)
- Community R & D aims and priorities
- Consistency of external policies
- Turkey

Information Report

- Information Report on agriculture in the French Overseas Departments.

PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Periodical

- Bulletin (monthly publication)

General Documentation

- The Economic and Social Committee (leaflet) (January 1980)
- The Economic and Social Committee (April 1981) (A descriptive brochure) 16 p.
- Annual Report (1980) 102 p. (Ex-30-80)
- Directory — List of Members (January 1981) (ESC-81-001)
- The Right of initiative of the Economic and Social Committee (October 1977) 124 p.
- 20th Anniversary of the Economic and Social Committee (May 1978) 19 p.

Opinions and Studies

- Prevention of Marine Pollution (2 Opinions) (ESC-81-004)
- Working Conditions (September 1980) (Opinion) 61 p. (LSC-80-012)
- Conference on the Enlargement of the European Community — 26 and 27 June 1980 (September 1980) (Extracts) ± 150 p. (ESC-80-009)
- The Organisation and Management of Community R & D (February 1980) (Study) 168 p. (LSC-80-001)
- Agricultural Structures Policy (November 1979) (Opinion) 90 p. (ESC-79-003)
- Enlargement of the European Community Greece-Spain-Portugal (September 1979) (Study) 75 p. (ESC-79-002)
- The Community's Relations with Spain (June 1979) (Study) 112 p. (ESC-79-001)
- Community Shipping Policy Flags of Convenience (April 1979) (Opinion) 170 p.
- Employee Participation and Company Structure (September 1978) (Opinion) 116 p.
- Youth Unemployment — Education and Training (November 1978) (5 Opinions) 97 p.
- The Stage reached in aligning labour legislation in the European Community (June 1978) (Documentation) 60 p.
- Employment in Agriculture (June 1978) (Study) 135 p.
- Monetary Disorder (June 1978) (Opinion) 98 p.
- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the Community Context (April 1978) (Opinion) 29 p.
- Industrial Change and Employment (November 1977) (Opinion) 98 p.
- EEC's Transport Problems with East European Countries (December 1977) (Opinion) 164 p.
- Community Nuclear Safety Code (July 1977) (Study) 50 p.
- Regional Development — Unemployment and Inflation (June 1977) (Opinion) 130 p. (Ex-22-77-435)
- Research and Development (November 1976) (Study) 35 p.
- Systems of Education and Vocational Training (August 1976) (Study) 114 p.
- Regional Policy (March 1976) (Opinion) 11 p.
- European Union (July 1975) (Opinion) 33 p.
- Progress Report on the Common Agricultural Policy (February 1975) (Study) 52 p.
- The Situation of Small and Medium-sized Undertakings in the European Community (March 1975) (Study) 69 p.



Obtainable from GOWER Publishing Company Limited, 1 Westmead Farnborough, Hampshire, GU 147RU

- Community Advisory Committee for the Representation of Socio-Economic Interests (£8.50)
- European Interest Groups and their Relationship to the Economic and Social Committee (£25)

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